

Andrew Jackson to John McNairy, May 12, 1797, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JOHN MCNAIRY.1

1 Copy. *Am. Hist. Mag.* (Nashville), V. 121 (1900).

Nashville, May 12 1797

Sir: Your Letter of this day is now before me upon which permit me to remark in a few words; that [it] is observeable, the harsh and grating expressions in the latter part are understood to apply to yourself. This *Sir* was not accepted in that sense by me. Not through inattention I conceive was the idea taken up, as from experience in life; I have been accustomed to hear men speak of their own failings at least in milder terms. From this cause together with the uncertainty of the tenor of the letter, I was led to adopt the opinion: Your Letter informs me I was wrong in that particular; but I must in candor say *sir*, however immaterial it may be to you, that my feelings in regard to the violation of our once intimate friendship are not healed.

To give you any other information would be uncandid. Let the matter drop here; as members of civilized Society, I indulge the idea that we shall pass through life in an easy manner; with the help of those rules and forms of politeness which such a state ought to impose upon every man. A copy of your Letter, to which this is in answer you shall have, at any time so Long as it remains by me.

I am *Sir* yr mo. ob. serv,